

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

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*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish but might have eternal life.*

John 3:16

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10, 2024

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Monsignor Joseph DeGrocco

Parochial Vicars: Reverend Fidelis Ezeani, Reverend Frank Zero, Reverend Emmanuel Okonkwo

Deacons: Deacon William R. Crosby, Deacon Douglas G. Smith,

Deacon Robert A. Becker, Deacon James Totino

Business Manager: Mr. Gerry Chille

Director of Faith Formation: Mrs. April Kleinlaut

Music Director: Miss Erin Barrett

COME AND PRAY...

Our church is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays until 6:30 p.m. The church closes after the 12:15 p.m. Mass on Thursdays and Fridays, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays (except First Saturdays, when there is Nocturnal Adoration until 9:30 p.m.) and after the 12:00 Noon Mass on Sundays (or after the 2:00 p.m. Baptisms when those are celebrated). Also, the church will close after the last Mass on all holidays and holy days when parish offices are closed, regardless of the day of the week. Come in and spend some time in prayer whenever the church is open!

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday Morning: 8:00 a.m.

Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

Special Needs Mass:

First Saturday of the month at 4:00 p.m.
in the auditorium (Sunday Anticipated Mass)

Holy Days of Obligation: Consult the bulletin

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesdays: 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

First Saturdays: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We pray Evening Prayer communally, in person, each Saturday in the church immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Each Sunday, we pray Morning Prayer at 9:15 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on the Zoom video platform. Click on the Zoom link on the home page of our website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

*Also available by individual appointment
with one of the priests.*

DEVOTIONS

OLPH Novena: Mondays following 12:15 p.m. Mass

Rosary: Weekdays following 6:30 a.m. Mass
Saturdays and Sundays following 8:00 a.m. Mass

The Holy Face of Jesus: Tuesdays following
12:15 p.m. Mass

First Fridays and First Saturdays:

As announced in bulletin

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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*New number
to download
the Parish App!*

Text to **55321**

*The old number 88202
is no longer in effect!*



THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of March 10, 2024

WATCH



Fear and Spiritual Warfare w/ Fr. Chad Ripperger | Fearless | Episode 5

Exorcist Fr. Chad Ripperger joins Chris to discuss fear and spiritual warfare. God calls us to walk confidently in his victory over the Evil One, not be slaves to fear. Reject fear's lies and live in the full freedom that comes from claiming the truth of Jesus Christ. Learn from Chris and Fr. Chad how to let Christ's power unshackle your heart and overcome sin in your life.

LEARN



Week Four | Restore: Lent with Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT

In week four of Restore, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, reflects on almsgiving and how it heals your relationships with others. One of the most powerful ways to heal your brokenness is to give—not only money or clothing, but also your presence and love—to those whom God has placed in your life, even those who have wounded you.

LISTEN



Where are You? | Forgiven | Session 1

This captivating series explores Catholic themes of redemption, grace, and forgiveness through compelling storytelling and thought-provoking narratives. It offers a profound understanding of the transformative power of forgiveness and its significance in personal growth and spiritual renewal.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

Fourth Sunday of Lent

We get a little break from the ultra-seriousness of Lent on this Fourth Sunday of Lent, which is referred to as *Laetare Sunday*. The name comes from the Entrance Antiphon for this Mass, from Isaiah 66:10-11: "*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*" Rose-colored vestments may be worn today, although the *Glory to God in the highest* is still omitted.

The Collect (Opening Prayer) for Mass for this Sunday recalls how God has reconciled the human race to Himself through His Word; salvation was accomplished through the Paschal Mystery (death and resurrection) of the Word-made-flesh, Jesus. It is because of God reconciling us to Himself (something we could never have accomplished ourselves) that we can make the petition asked in the second part of the Collect: that "...the *Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come.*" We get a certain sense that the Easter feasts are coming closer, and this is the source of our rejoicing. Thus does the prayer continue to orient us toward Easter, which is drawing ever nearer.

The Prayer over the Offerings mentions the joy that characterizes today as it notes that we place our offerings before God "with joy." We are also reminded of the inherently missionary nature of the Eucharist — how it is not something just for ourselves, but rather how it impels us to look outward to serve the world. We are reminded of this as the prayer expresses that we present the offerings "*for the salvation of all the world.*"

Once again our Mass prayers offer us much occasion for further spiritual reflection on the meaning of Lent. Let this *Laetare Sunday* be for you a turning point in your own Lenten journey, and experience the joy of Easter coming soon! If you have not been serious about Lent so far, it's not too late to get started, so that the remaining days before Easter will truly be days of purification, enlightenment and renewal.

We're throwing a party for sinners! It's called the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Keep in mind that, as usual, there are

Confessions on this coming Saturday, March 16, 4:00-4:45 p.m., and an extra priest — three of us! — will be available. Then, next Saturday, March 23, the Saturday before Palm Sunday, **all four parish priests will be available 3:00-4:45 p.m.** (note the special extended time frame).

Most especially, don't forget about the Diocesan Day of Reconciliation, which is on Monday of Holy Week, March 25. On that day at OLPH, as well as in every parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre (and in the Brooklyn Diocese and the Archdiocese of New York, too!), priests will be available for Confession continuously from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and then again from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Here at OLPH, **all four priests will be available for all those hours during both sessions on Monday, March 25**, so you have your choice of any one of us!

Make your plans now to get to Confession, perhaps especially on that Monday of Holy Week, since that day will provide the widest opportunity. There's no better way to get ready for Easter than to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

Taizé Prayer Around the Cross

We have a wonderful opportunity for some quiet and meditative Lenten prayer time coming up this Thursday, March 14, at the Taizé Prayer Around the Cross service which will be held at 7:30 p.m. Those who have experienced it in the past know what a soothing and beautiful experience this is, one which uses repetitive music refrains as a large part of the prayer, and which includes the opportunity to offer an act of adoration to the Holy Cross. The whole thing takes an hour or less, so give yourself a treat and be sure to come to Taizé Prayer Around the Cross this Thursday.

Two additional Lenten spiritual activities

We are continuing to offer two other opportunities for Lenten spiritual growth, and I hope you will take advantage of these as well. One is our reflection on and study of the Responsorial Psalm used at the Sunday Mass of Lent, with these sessions being held in the north sacristy 11:15-11:45 a.m. (in other words, in

between the 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses) each Sunday in Lent. The other is the Stations of the Cross each Friday night in Lent at 7:30 p.m., with each night being led by a different parish group or ministry. (Also, don't forget the special Stations of the Resurrection which will be prayed on Friday night of Easter Week, April 5.) Look at all the opportunities we have for spiritual growth during Lent! No wonder OLPH is "the place to be!"

Ushers Meeting this Saturday, March 16

I remind all Ushers to attend the meeting this coming Saturday, March 16, at 11:30 a.m. This important meeting is mandatory for all Ushers, since we will be discussing the schedule and special procedures concerning Palm Sunday and the Sacred Paschal Triduum. I look forward to seeing all Ushers there.

Phony e-mails and texts supposedly from me

It's happening again, so beware. As happens to me and many other Pastors from time to time, phony e-mails and text messages are going out, supposedly from me, often claiming that I'm trying to help someone and that I need you to respond, and sometimes even to buy gift cards. **These are scams, and you should not respond to them!** If I am trying to contact you or asking you for something, I will do so in a way that will make it obvious that it is me. **If you ever have any questions as to whether a communication from me is legitimate, call the rectory yourself or initiate your own separate e-mail to me to inquire.** Always ask yourself, "*Is this something Msgr. Joe would be asking me about?*"

As I said, this happens with many Pastors from time to time, so it's just something we'll have to deal with in the world in which we live nowadays. How sad it is, though.

Begin planning now to attend the liturgies of the Sacred Paschal Triduum

You should begin now to make your plans and arrangements to attend the liturgies of the Sacred Paschal Triduum, our holiest days of the year. The Sacred Paschal Triduum, our Great Three Days, begins on Holy Thursday night, so "day one" runs from Holy Thursday night to Good Friday night; "day two" is Good

Friday night to Holy Saturday night, the night we celebrate the great Easter Vigil; and "day three" is from Holy Saturday night to Easter Sunday night, as the Triduum concludes with Vespers (Evening Prayer) on Easter Sunday night.

On Holy Thursday evening we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper; on Good Friday the liturgy is the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (not a Mass — no Mass is celebrated on Good Friday); on Holy Saturday night we celebrate the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, and, of course, there are the Masses on Easter Sunday (note that the schedule on Easter Sunday is different from the normal Sunday schedule). We also gather to celebrate Morning Prayer on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. These are once-a-year liturgies, and we'll be having a full explanation of the days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum and the liturgies celebrated those days in a special insert in the Palm Sunday bulletin; look for it.

We should begin to think now about how we will set time aside to make those days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum different from other days — in other words, not business as usual. Maybe we should consider taking time off from work, in order to take a spiritual vacation during those days, and in order to be available to go to the liturgies. Maybe we need to think about how those days will be days of fasting — fasting not just from food, but from distractions such as shopping, technology, social media and entertainment. Since the liturgies of those days are so central to our faith, we should certainly plan on attending.

In conclusion...

Together, let's aim high in Christ. Together, let's bring out the best in each other. Together, let's be the best we can be in Christ.

And let's always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,



THE PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Special Procession to Commemorate the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem SUNDAY, MARCH 24 — 12:00 P.M. MASS

On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. This is always such a great celebration for the parish!



Procession is at the 12:00 Noon Mass

(not 5:00 p.m. — the 5 p.m. Mass will be a regular Mass for Palm Sunday)

For Sunday, March 24, please note:

- At 11:00 a.m., we are closing the church to all but the handicapped; people will be directed to the auditorium
- 12:00 Noon Mass begins in the auditorium, continues with the Procession, and continues in the church
- What a wonderful experience this has been in prior years, and will be again this year
- What a great way to pray and celebrate the mystery of Palm Sunday—with a Procession!
- In case of inclement weather, we will begin in the church



Even if you do not usually attend the 12:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, consider attending as together we begin the celebration of Holy Week.

PALM SUNDAY and EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULES:

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES FOR THESE DAYS

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 23

5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24:

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

and 12:00 p.m. with Procession

(12:00 p.m. Mass begins in the auditorium)



SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR

Easter Sunday Masses

Saturday, March 30:

8:00 p.m. only

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Sunday, March 31:

7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

and 1:00 p.m.

*** note special times**



SILENCE BEFORE MASS DURING LENT

WE'RE HIGHLIGHTING THE LENTEN SEASON BY FOCUSING ON SILENCE BEFORE MASS BEGINS

During the holy season of Lent, we're emphasizing that the time before Mass should be a time for silent prayer, when we prepare our hearts for an encounter with the Lord. Pope Francis once pointed out in one of his teachings, "When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chitchat with those in front of us...[However,]... "it is not meant for chitchat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus." He added, "Silence is so important." The Pope also spoke about how the Mass is not a show, but a place where we encounter the Lord. In this encounter, he said, silence is what "prepares us and accompanies us."

During Lent, the Cantor will call everyone to silence five minutes before Mass begins. Let's all give each other the gift of silence, being quiet together in those last moments before Mass begins to prepare ourselves for Mass. Out of respect for each other, let's give each other that special gift. Maybe we can cultivate that habit inside us, and it will continue even after Lent! Thank you for your cooperation.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth (14th) year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59) inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fast and abstinence. Individual conscience should decide proper cause for excuse. A more serious reason is required to excuse oneself from the Good Friday fast and abstinence.

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR EASTER

We will be decorating the church for Easter on **Holy Saturday morning, March 30, at 9:30 a.m.**, immediately following Morning Prayer. We would love to have lots of folks come on down to pitch in. Why not join the fun and come down to help? (Come to Morning Prayer, and then stay to help out!) It should not take much longer than an hour or so. Bring the kids and do this as a family — what a great way for your family to share in the joy of Easter! We appreciate whatever help you can give us.

HELP NEEDED TO WATER THE EASTER FLOWERS

Help keep our beautiful Easter plants and flowers alive! We need people to offer to take turns to come in and water the Easter plants and flowers during the seven weeks of Easter Time, starting the week of April 1. It will take only a little while once or twice a week, starting on Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m., and Saturdays with times to be announced, so your commitment will be minimal. Your responsibility will end when we return to Ordinary Time after May 19 (Pentecost). It's a great way to do something helpful for the parish that does not require a huge ongoing commitment. It's something you can bring your child with you to do! Won't you help us out? Please contact Denise Martinez at countrydee02@gmail.com or by TEXT ONLY at (631) 575-9519 and she'll give you all the details and sign you up. Thank you!



PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Stations of the Cross

Fridays

March 15, 22

at 7:30 p.m. in the church

March 29 at 12:00 Noon



We are continuing the custom of having different groups from the parish lead the Stations of the Cross on the Friday nights during Lent as a great way to highlight the traditional Lenten devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

Friday, March 15 will be led by the Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary.

And also, save the date... Friday, April 5—Stations of the Resurrection!



CONFESSIONS

Saturday: March 16

4:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Saturday March 23: 3:00 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Monday of Holy Week, March 25:

2:00—4:00 p.m. and 6:00—9:00 p.m.



Prepare Your Heart for the Coming of the Lord

This season of Lent, as we prepare for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord, the Adult Faith Formation program at OLPH is offering an uplifting experience to make ready for the Solemnity of Easter. **Continuing every Sunday through March 17**, we will offer parishioners the opportunity to study the Responsorial Psalms used in each Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist. We will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. each Sunday in the north sacristy of the church. Each session will feature a discussion of the themes of the Responsorial Psalm of the day, led by a member of the Pastoral Staff. Attend all of the sessions, or select those that fit your schedule. Handouts of the psalms will be provided. Come join us in breaking open the Word of the Lord.

MEETING FOR USHERS—HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

All Ushers are required to attend a special meeting on **Saturday, March 16 at 11:30 a.m.** in the church. At this very important meeting, we will review all the schedules and special information concerning all the Holy Week liturgies (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday), in addition to reviewing other important business items. We will also formally install our new Ushers in their ministry. All Ushers are expected to attend, as this is one of the required semi-annual meetings for ongoing formation. Thank you. We look forward to seeing you there!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Each Monday, parishioners pray to seek the help and assistance of the Lord for healing, family, children and the needs of the world, seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Take some time each Monday to join in the OLPH Novena.

Mondays at 12:45 p.m.

BRINGING FORWARD THE OFFERINGS OF BREAD AND WINE



If the announced intention at Mass is for your intention, or if you have memorialized the bread and wine, and you would like to carry those offerings forward at the Presentation of the Gifts during Mass, please be sure to let the ushers know this before the Mass begins. They will be happy to have you do this. If no one steps forward to specifically request this, then they will select people from the assembly.

FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COME FORWARD IN PROCESSION TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

If you are, or if someone you are with is, unable to walk in procession to receive Holy Communion, please alert one of the Ushers **before Mass begins**. The Usher will be glad to arrange to have one of the ministers bring Holy Communion to the pew. Please remember to inform an Usher before Mass begins; do not wait until the time of Communion. Also, if at all possible, please sit in the front half of the church, to make it easier for the minister to come to you. Thank you.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Today we celebrate at the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass the **Second Scrutiny** of our elect preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). These special prayer rites, called Scrutinies, are rites for self-searching and repentance. These Scrutinies are meant to heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of those about to be baptized and to strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. These Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. For their part, the elect are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through serious examination of their lives and true repentance.

Thus, three Scrutinies are celebrated, on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, in order to inspire in the elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ. The Scrutinies will be held at various parish Masses on those Sundays. Please remember to pray for our elect, Ameira, Helen, Diego, and Ailen, as they undergo this final stage of Lenten preparation for reception of the Easter sacraments.

THE THIRD SCRUTINY WILL BE CELEBRATED NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 17, AT 12:00 Noon MASS.

LENTEN ENVIRONMENT AS OF NEXT WEEKEND, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

As of next weekend, we will observe the custom of covering (or removing, where possible) crosses and images throughout the church, a practice permitted starting the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Crosses will remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. Since the environment perceived by our senses is an important part of our worship, we hope this custom facilitates your entrance into, and spiritual participation in, the last days of Lent, as we approach the Sacred Paschal Triduum and the fifty days of Easter Time.

BLESSING OF BREAD AND PASTRIES ON ST. JOSEPH'S DAY



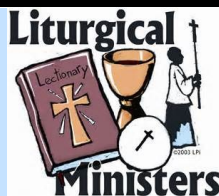
Tuesday, March 19, is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional to bless bread, pastries, and other food and to give a portion of it to the poor on St. Joseph's Day. Therefore, we will be offering a blessing of bread, pastries (and any other St. Joseph's foods traditional to your family) at both our weekday Masses, at 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., on Tuesday, March 19. Join in celebrating St. Joseph's Day in this way by bringing your breads and pastries to be blessed!

EASTER SPIRITUAL BOUQUET CARDS



Easter Spiritual Bouquet cards are now available throughout the church. These cards are a meaningful way for you to have your intentions prayed for in the Masses of Easter Sunday. Take an envelope, fill out your prayer intention, and return the envelope with your donation. Envelopes may be returned either in the collection basket or at the rectory. Keep the card to send as an expression of your prayer. All the Masses offered on Easter Sunday will be for the intentions of the Easter Spiritual Bouquet.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING



WE NEED YOU! WE WANT YOU!

OLPH IS RECRUITING NEW LECTORS, USHERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

What do Extraordinary Ministers do?

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priests and deacons in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Those who wish can also go on for extra training to bring Holy Communion to our homebound sisters and brothers.

How Do I Become An Extraordinary Minister?

1. You must contact Barbara McPhail at 631-226-1354 or e-mail to gospa254@gmail.com.
2. You must send a letter to Msgr. Joe at the Parish Office or e-mail to mmsgroje@oloph.org requesting to become a minister.
3. You must meet with Msgr. Joe for an interview.
4. You must attend one of the diocesan training sessions (see below). If you wish to also bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, you must attend a separate "Part B" training session. Information about that session can be obtained in your interview with Msgr. Joe.

What do Lectors do?

Lectors proclaim the Scriptures and sometimes the Intercessions at Sunday and daily Mass and at other liturgies.

How Do I Become A Lector?

1. You must contact Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or email to DeaconRobert9550@gmail.com
2. You must attend one of the diocesan training sessions.

LECTORS

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

at St. Elizabeth Parish, Melville

(Our own Msgr. Joe will be the presenter at this one on April 16!)

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

at Immaculate Conception Parish, Westhampton Beach*

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

at St. Christopher Parish, Baldwin

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, "PART A" FOR ALL MINISTERS

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

at St. Elizabeth Parish, Melville

(Our own Msgr. Joe will be

the presenter at this one on April 16!)

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

at Immaculate Conception Parish, Westhampton Beach*

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

at St. Christopher Parish, Baldwin

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION, "PART B" FOR THOSE WHO WILL BRING COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Saturday, April 27, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,

at Immaculate Conception Parish, Westhampton Beach*

Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

at St. Elizabeth Parish, Melville

Tuesday, June 4, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

at St. Christopher Parish, Baldwin

*Same day, Parts A and B—bring lunch

or leave for lunch and return

What do Ushers do?

Ushers serve an important role in the liturgy! First and foremost, they are ministers of hospitality who welcome all those who come to liturgy. They help create an environment conducive to worship by the way they greet people with warmth and friendliness. Ushers also serve by guiding the movement of the assembly during processions such as the reception of Holy Communion and at other times. Taking up the collection is another way Ushers serve the assembly.

Who Should Become an Usher?

Anyone, including teens who have received Confirmation, can become an Usher. This is a great ministry for **families to do together...the young ones can do this with parents and older children!**

How Do I Become an Usher?

You should contact Mike Williams at olphushersministry@gmail.com or, if you don't have e-mail, leave a message for Msgr. Joe at the Parish Office, 631-226-7725 and he will pass the message along to Mike.

All liturgical ministers must complete a Volunteer Registration Form, have Virtus training and be a registered parishioner. For information about becoming Virtus compliant: contact Helene Calabrese at hcalab2@optonline.net.

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING OFFERINGS FOR THE POOR ON HOLY THURSDAY

All who attend the Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper are asked to bring an offering of food for the poor and homeless. Insofar as one of the principal mysteries commemorated on Holy Thursday is the Lord's command to love one another, as also ritualized in the Washing of Feet, this ritual expression of bringing offerings for the poor reminds us that "where true charity is dwelling, God is present there." Check the shopping list for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and bring one or more of those items. **REMEMBER, THOUGH: DO NOT BRING YOUR GIFT TO THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY BEFORE MASS BEGINS! HOLD ONTO IT — YOU WILL CARRY IT UP IN PROCESSION AT THE USUAL TIME OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS, AS DIRECTED BY THE USHERS.** This offering for the poor is the "collection" for that Mass. Thus, these offerings for the poor and the bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist will powerfully symbolize the offerings of ourselves and of our love for one another as we participate in the offering of the Mass.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children 1st Grade and older can join in
the Children's Liturgy of the Word
next Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Mass



Participating in the
Children's Liturgy of the
Word continues to teach
children how to participate
in Mass, since they do the
same things that are being
done in the main body of
the church



MUSIC MINISTRY

**This
week!**

Taizé Prayer Around the Cross Thursday, March 14th



7:30 p.m. in the church

Join us for a candlelight prayer service to help us reflect on the mystery of the Cross and the glory of Christ's resurrection. Consider setting aside 45 minutes to join in this beautiful and contemplative form of prayer.

SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual Spring Concert Returns

May 10th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

We are in need of empty baskets as well as items to be raffled off or even completed baskets with raffle prizes. We are looking for baskets to be worth at least \$50. Items must be brand new. Gift cards of any amount and scratch off lottery tickets are also most welcome. If you have an extra bottle of wine laying around the house, we'll take that too. Items can be brought to the rectory anytime before Sunday, May 5.

Thank you for your support of our Ministry

IMPORTANT NOTICE AFFECTING ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH

As required by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Sacraments of Initiation are to be celebrated in the home parish of the child. Therefore, all families of OLPH with children celebrating First Communion and Confirmation are to have their children **celebrate those sacraments at OLPH**. As Catholics, our faith identity is centered in our Eucharistic identity, namely, the Sunday worshipping community we belong to (where we celebrate Mass Sunday after Sunday). This community is our primary community and the community in which our faith is lived, day in and day out.

Because of this, and because each year of religious formation builds on the prior one, **all school-aged children who are parishioners of OLPH, regardless of where they attend school, must be registered with our Religious Education Office for all years of religious formation (not only for sacrament-preparation years).**

- Children **in all grades** who attend **public school** attend religion classes in our Religious Education Program, and they and their parents also participate in various non-classroom religious formation experiences.

- Children **in all grades** who attend a **Catholic elementary school** need not attend the Religious Education classes, but they **must be registered in the program**, and they and their parents participate in all the non-classroom religious formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. **These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH**, not at the parish of their elementary school.

- Children **in all grades** who are **homeschooled** must also be registered with the Religious Education Office. They may or may not be required to attend the Religious Education classes, depending on their homeschool curriculum, but regardless, the homeschooled children and their parents are to attend the various non-classroom formation experiences, especially but not only in sacrament-preparation years. **These children celebrate the sacraments here at OLPH.**

If you are a parishioner with children in a Catholic elementary school or who are homeschooled and you are not yet on record with our Religious Education Office, please contact the office immediately. If you know of anyone who should be registered, please let them know of this policy. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Confirmation Retreat Sunday, March 3, 2024



OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Located in the Rectory
 Phone # 631.226.7725 x. 253
 Email: religious@oloph.org
 Director: Mrs. April Kleinlaut
 (akleinlaut@oloph.org)

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.
 Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Friday: CLOSED
 Saturday: By Appointment Only

LEVEL 7:

Remember that the Teaching Mass on the Eucharist is this Wednesday, March 13, during class time. Students should meet in the church.

LEVELS 4 and 5:

Remember that there is the Student Safety Meeting this Saturday, March 16, during class time. Students should meet in the auditorium.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!

Early Registration for returning families began March 1st. There is a \$30 discount for all families that register before May 31st. After June 1st, the regular registration fee will be in effect for ALL registrations. For any late registrations that come in after July 31st there will be an additional \$30 late fee. We continue to encourage all families with children who will be beginning 1st grade (or older) who have not yet begun religious education to register for religious education. All new families must schedule an appointment in order to register and must come with a baptismal certificate.

Saint of the Day!

St. Patrick

This famous saint is known as the saint who “drove the snakes from Ireland,” but there is so much more to this incredible saint! First of all, did you know that he’s not even Irish? He’s really British, and was kidnapped by pirates when he was 16! He was then taken to Ireland as a slave. Instead of being scared and full of despair, he turned to God for help. He was able to escape, and then returned some years later as a missionary to Ireland. He lived a simple lifestyle, spending his nights in prayer and sleeping on rocks or other places outside. He converted many to Christianity and is well celebrated even until today. May he intercede for us always!



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

- † Bereavement Ministry: Linda Arpino—631.592.1062—forubabe77@gmail.com
- † Blue Door Thrift Boutique: Tricia Buckley—631.561.5790—thebluedoor@oloph.org
- † Catholics for the Freedom of Religion: Kathy Feldman—631.225.9864—cdfeldman@optonline.net
- † Hospital Visitors: Peter O'Neill—631.226.6340—oneillp@optonline.net
- † Respect Life Ministry: Louise Perrotta—631.412.3831—louiseperrotta123@gmail.com
- † St. Vincent de Paul Society: Valerie Baxter—631.226.7725, x. 234
- † Special Needs Ministry: Jessica Becker Paolo—631.226.6175—jbecker@oloph.org

NEW Food Pantry List!

**SHELF STABLE WHOLE MILK
SOUPS WITH MEAT
CANNED MEAT
CANNED MEALS
GRAVY/BROTH
INSTANT POTATOES
PASTA
PREPARED PASTA SAUCE
CEREAL
CANNED FRUIT**

Thank you
for your continued generosity.

Cut out this list
and bring it with you
when you go shopping!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Located in the “New” School Building

Use Parking Lot located on corner of

Gates & High Streets

631.226.7725 x. 234

The office is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.—12 Noon

1st & 3rd Saturdays 1:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

In today's Gospel, God demonstrates great love for us by sending his Son so that we may believe in Him. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works: reaching out to others, acting in justice and charity.

Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work, far greater than you think. Know that your nickel, dime, quarter or dollar is multiplied by coins placed by others in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

*During Lent please remember the Poor Boxes.
Each week the amount collected in the Poor Boxes
is listed in our bulletin.*

You may wonder where that money goes.

Every coin, bill or check goes directly to our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society to help serve those in need within our parish.

We use the funds to directly serve our neighbors who need food, rent assistance or help paying a utility bill.

We are grateful to those who remember the Poor Boxes weekly.

Thank you for helping us help others.



ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

OLPH Confraternity of Christian Mothers & Guild



Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale March 23 and 24

Following the Saturday 5:00 p.m. and all Sunday Masses

Located in the priest garages on High Street

Proceeds go for the benefit of OLPH
homemade baked goodies cakes, bread, cookies, cupcakes,
chocolates & basket raffle

cash only please



Auction/Trivia Night

Sponsored by The **Blue Door** Boutique

Date: **Friday, April 19th**

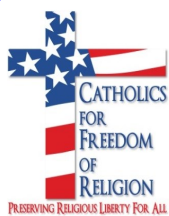
Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: **O.L.P.H. Auditorium**

Admission: \$5, includes auction paddle and entrance to trivia quiz

THE
*blue*door
BOUTIQUE

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION



FOCUS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Some Concerns Communicated in the USCCB's Report on the State of Religious Liberty in the United States Have Already Been Validated

The Bishops' report, issued on January 16, 2024, looked at many areas of possible problems for First Amendment religious freedom going forward, and the effects which could reach Catholics and people of every faith. In the recent news are examples of their apprehensions becoming reality.

February 11, 2024: An armed person entered Lakewood Church in Houston and began firing at worshippers. The attacker was killed by security personnel, but two other people were shot, including the attacker's son.

February 15, 2024: A statue of the Blessed Mother holding the Infant Jesus was vandalized with what looks like hammer blows to the face. The statue stands at the Washington D.C. Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

February 19, 2024: At the National Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia there are stained glass windows with scenes from the saint's life. Three of the windows had panes shattered by rocks and stones thrown from outside, per the security cameras.

February 25, 2024: A letter from the St. Thoms More Legal Society, which is defending pro-life activist Lauren Handy, advises that Lauren, who has been convicted of an offense under the FACE Act, will be sentenced on May 14 and could be sent to prison for 11 years. The Bishops' report explains that the FACE Act was intended to protect abortion facilities, churches and pro-life clinics but has never been used except to charge pro-life demonstrators and sentence them to extreme penalties for peaceful, non-violent actions.

The Bishops' report discusses many areas where religious freedom has been diminished, and other impending government mandates that would greatly damage every American's ability to practice their faith. The charism of the laity is to bring these issues into the public square and stand for the morality which our founders knew was the only sure protection of our liberties.

Connect with the USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty to receive Action Alerts and the latest updates on current religious freedom issues: <http://tinyurl.com/4brtsyjt>.

Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/bdhk3nbs> <http://tinyurl.com/2ey4jp9v>
<http://tinyurl.com/4secd73k> <http://tinyurl.com/2kxx2zsw>

"Those who deny religious freedom seek to end the influence of faith and morals in our society. As Catholics, our actions must make it clear, we will not surrender our religious liberty."
—Most Rev. William F. Murphy, Bishop-Emeritus, Diocese of Rockville Centre

OLPH CYO SPRING TRACK

GENERAL INFORMATION

OLPH TRACK IS FOR GIRLS & BOYS IN GRADES 1st THRU 8th
SPRING SEASON STARTS: early APRIL
SPRING SEASON ENDS: early JUNE
(these dates are approximate)

PRACTICES:

most often are TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS at LINDENHURST MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK, but location & times may differ depending on availability
practices start at 6:30 and last for 60-90 minutes (typically)

TRACK MEETS:

- There are usually 4 or 5 meets PER SEASON
- Meets begin after the first 3rd or 4th week of practice
- meets are Saturday OR Sunday
- common meet locations: RONKONKOMA, MASSA-PEQUA, LINDENHURST, PATCHOGUE, HOLBROOK

TYPICAL EVENTS:

- Dashes of 55m, 100m, 200m

- Relays of various distances
- Mile run for older kids

REGISTRATION FEE: \$80

REGISTER ONLINE:

WWW.LEAGUELINEUP.COM/OLPHCYO

online registration opens in Feb or July, respectively

IN PERSON REGISTRATION:

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

@ the OLPH DOWNSTAIRS CAFETERIA
(enter on HIGH STREET SIDE, between Rectory & Auditorium)

UNIFORM:

An OLPH TRACK T-SHIRT is required for meets. T-SHIRT cost is \$10 and is separate from registration fee. T-SHIRT can be paid for at IN-PERSON REGISTRATION or at an early season practice. It cannot be paid for online at this time. You can reuse T-SHIRT from the previous season if you'd like.

SERVING AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Phone: (631) 226-7725 Parish Fax: (631) 225-9597

Directory of Phone Extensions

Name	Ext	Email
Erin Barrett, Director of Music	210	ebarrett@oloph.org
Carmel Becker, Bulletin	246	cbecker@oloph.org
Carole Carrano, Parish Secretary	212	ccarrano@oloph.org
Gerry Chille, Business Manager	204	gchille@oloph.org
Linda Coppola, Business Office Assistant	214	lcoppola@oloph.org
Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, Pastor	206	msgrjoe@oloph.org
Fr. Fidelis Ezeani, Associate Pastor	226	fadaprince4christ@yahoo.com
Faith Formation Office	253	religioused@oloph.org
April Kleinlaut, Director of Faith Formation	257	akleinlaut@oloph.org
Fr. Emmanuel Okonkwo	223	emmaokons@yahoo.com
Rectory Reception Desk	200	
St. Vincent de Paul	234	stvincentdepaul@oloph.org
Josephine Vagelatos, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor	206	jvagelatos@oloph.org
Fr. Frank Zero, Associate Pastor	203	fzero@oloph.org

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism ceremonies are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parents wishing to have a child baptized must attend a baptism preparation session before the baptism; these sessions are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month excluding holidays. Contact the Parish Office to begin the process of having your child baptized.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Those who are seriously ill or facing surgery, as well as those in danger of death, should receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Please call the Parish Office and ask for one of our priests.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who wish to be baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian faith and wish to become Catholic, or who have been baptized Catholic and wish to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion, are invited to join the process of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Please contact Jeffrey Gaab at (631) 965-0076 or e-mail at jsg375@gmail.com to begin the process.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adults who have been baptized Catholic and who have received Holy Communion but who still need the Sacrament of Confirmation should enroll in our Adult Confirmation Classes. Please contact Deacon Robert Becker at 631-226-6175 or e-mail to DeaconRobert@oloph.org.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact the Parish Office at least SIX MONTHS before the desired date of your wedding.

YOUR PASTORAL COUNCIL

Eileen Corticchia
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Jeffrey Gaab
 Gregory Guido
 Sonia Hansen
 Joselyn Kalt
 Mary Leon
 Rachelle Louis-Jacques
 Carlton Mitchell
 Deacon James Totino

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Pastoral Council with any questions you might have.

YOUR PARISH TRUSTEES

Bill Bendernagel
 Bob Meade

YOUR PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

David Barrett
 Bill Bendernagel (Chair)
 Gerry Chille
 Meg Danaher, CFP®, CLU®
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Marie Gagneron
 Kenneth Hale
 Bob Meade
 Bob Mehm
 John Reynolds
 Jackie Totino

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Finance Committee with any questions you might have.

YOUR PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Fauvette Auguste
 Erin Barrett
 Deacon Robert Becker
 Mark Costantino
 Msgr. Joe DeGrocco
 Kenneth Hale
 Jenine Jimenez-Spina
 Denise Martinez
 Barbara McPhail
 Deacon Doug Smith
 Mike Williams
 Fr. Frank Zero

Please feel free to speak to any member of the Liturgy Committee with any questions you might have.

PRAYING FOR AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

WE CELEBRATE

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has freed you from sin, given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and joined you to his people.—Order of Baptism of Children



Caterina Grace Maglio

We welcome the newest member of the Catholic community here at OLPH!

REMINDER REGARDING THE COMMUNION FAST

Please remember that we are supposed to observe a Communion Fast before receiving Holy Communion. This means we do not eat any foods or drink any liquids for one hour before receiving Holy Communion, the only exception being water or medicine. This also means that we are not to chew gum during Mass, and certainly not while we are coming forward to receive Holy Communion. Let's be sure we are appropriately prepared to receive Holy Communion by observing this important rule of the Church.

FOR THOSE WITH CELIAC DISEASE

Special hosts are available for those with Celiac Disease who cannot receive Holy Communion using the usual bread. These hosts contain less than 0.001% gluten content and are approved for the Roman Catholic Church by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. If you need to receive Holy Communion using one of these hosts, please stop in the sacristy before Mass begins to discuss this with the priest. We will be happy to accommodate you.

WE REMEMBER

We remember those who have died in our parish.

***Walter Alfaro
Carol Kasulka***

“O God, who through the ending of present things open up the beginning of things to come, grant, we pray, that the soul of your servant may be led to you to attain the inheritance of eternal redemption.”

WE BELIEVE

We pray for the sick of our parish...

Little Joanie Giarratano

James Gridley

Erin Kelly

Catherine Wharry

Mary Doran

John Jordan

Thomas Volpe

Nora McMahon

Patricia & Richard Kleczekowski

Susan Walters

Ritchie and MaryAnn Haas

Larry Hoelger

John Kaszalka

John Leyden

Janet Leyden

Lena Farrugia

John Ogilvie

Patty Freapane

Matthew Cangro

Tom Sowden

Paul Leyden

Joseph Pugh

Christopher Bovenzi

Steven Castiglione

Christine Ajello-Larsen

If a family member or close friend is ill, please let us know so our community can pray for them. Please call the Parish Office to have the name of the person added to the list. **Please make sure the person is aware the request has been made and that they are agreeable with their name printed in the bulletin.** The name will remain on the list for at least four weeks **and will be announced at Mass the first week only.** You don't need to make the request again until after the name is removed from the list.

The Bereavement Ministry assists anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one and helps the person grow through their grief.

Joining a Support Group, with the help of trained facilitators, will help the person strengthening their faith in themselves and God.

**Our Spring Bereavement begins
March 16 to May 18 from
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Registration required.**

Please contact Linda Arpino 631-592-1062 or Forubabe77@aol.com for information.

MASS SCHEDULE	
MONDAY, March 11— Lenten Weekday	
6:30	Rev. Msgr. Daniel S. Hamilton
12:15	Elizabeth Stack
TUESDAY, March 12— Lenten Weekday	
6:30	Anita Perna
12:15	Louise Giammarino
WEDNESDAY, March 13— Lenten Weekday	
6:30	Anita Perna
12:15	Trudy Minicozzi
THURSDAY, March 14— Lenten Weekday	
6:30	Cassandra Bouzi
12:15	Angela Lentini & Family (Living)
FRIDAY, March 15— Lenten Weekday	
6:30	Pam & Peter Fiorillo (Living)
12:15	Pat Rimmer
SATURDAY, March 16— Lenten Weekday	
8:00	Penny Steffens
Saturday Afternoon (Sunday Anticipated): FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	
5:00	Christine Liotta
Sunday, March 17— FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	
8:00	For the People of the Parish
10:00	Living & Deceased Members of the Christian Mothers & Guild
12:00	Victoria Southard

Monday, March 11, 2024		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 24
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Devotions	Church
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Business	Room 24
5:00 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	St. Lucy Room
7:00 p.m.	Family Life Ministry Meeting	Room 3
Tuesday, March 12, 2024		
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
7:00 p.m.	Living the Eucharist	School
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Board Meeting	Room 21
7:15 p.m.	Adult Confirmation	St. Mark's Room
Wednesday, March 13, 2024		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
12:45 p.m.	Exposition	Church
2:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary (631-412-3831 for information)	Off Campus
6:30 p.m.	Levels 6, 7 and 8 Classes	School
Thursday, March 14, 2024		
1:00 p.m.-on	Church closed for cleaning	Church
7:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Group	Cafeteria
7:30 p.m.	Taizé Prayer	Church
8:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous	Room 24
Friday, March 15, 2024		
9:00 a.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
10:00 a.m.	Blue Door Boutique	Room 12
7:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	Church
Saturday, March 16, 2024		
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.	Levels 1-5 and Sp. Ed. Classes	School
11:30 a.m.	Bereavement Ministry	Room 24
11:30 a.m.	Ushers Meeting	Church
1:00 p.m.	CYO	Auditorium
1:30 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry	Room 23
4:00 p.m.	Confessions	Church
6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer	Church
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria
Sunday, March 17, 2024		
10:00 a.m.	O CIA	Church
10:00 a.m.	CYO Track Registration	Cafeteria
1:00 p.m.	CYO Basketball	Auditorium
6:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Cafeteria

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

EL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO,

El grupo de oración Jesús es el camino la verdad y la vida.

Le invita a alabar y glorificar a Dios todos los jueves a las 7:00PM en la cafetería, en un ambiente familiar. Comenzando con el Santo Rosario. Únete a nosotros en oración, por ti y por tu familia en Alabanzas y reflexión de la palabra de DIOS.

Todos los martes llevamos el Santo Rosario a los hogares para orar en familia Interesados favor llamar a Alina Patrón al (516) 263-9401

Para más información sobre los sacramentos del bautizo matrimonio y servicio pastorales Unción de los enfermos y la Eucaristía, llamar a la rectoría (631) 226-7725/ en español a Irma González al (631) 620-2401.

Reflexión de las Lecturas de 4th domingo de Cuaresma - Ciclo B

Gracias, Señor, por tu amor. Quiero obrar el bien conforme a tu verdad. Permite que esta oración aumente mi fe, mi confianza y mi actitud filial de amor para que mis actitudes y comportamientos crezcan en el amor.

Primera Lectura (2 Corintios 36,14-16, 19-23): Dios Da a Su Pueblo Nuevas oportunidades

Incluso cuando Dios castiga a su pueblo con el exilio, Dios no puede menos de ser fiel. Utiliza incluso a paganos para devolver a su pueblo a la Tierra Prometida.

Segunda Lectura (Efesios 2,4-10): Todo es gracia.

Por su gracia, Dios ha salvado a su pueblo del exilio. Por la gracia de Dios, su Hijo Jesús nos salva de la muerte del pecado. En el plan de Dios todo es un don gratuito de gracia.

Evangelio (Juan 3,14-21): Salvador por la Cruz de Cristo

Cristo tenía que morir en la cruz para salvarnos y darnos vida eterna, ya que Cristo vino no a condenarnos sino a salvarnos.

Tanto Amó Dios al Mundo...

Si fuéramos realmente conscientes de cuánto nos ama Dios ¿cómo podríamos permanecer indiferentes o rehusar nada a Dios? Si creemos firmemente que él nos encuentra dignos de amor, ¿cómo podríamos no poner nuestra confianza en él? Él no nos fuerza: simplemente nos invita: "Éste es mi amor hacia ti; ¿te gustaría aceptarme a mí y mi amor? ¿Te gustaría compartir mi amor con otros amándoles a ellos también?" ¿Qué respuesta le damos a Dios, por medio de Jesucristo?


Mirando a la Cruz

En nuestras Iglesias y en la mayoría de nuestros hogares damos al crucifijo un lugar de honor. ¿Quiere ello decir que debemos amar las cruces? No, pero indica que creemos en nuestro Señor crucificado y que le amamos de corazón. Él nos salvó por su cruz y resurrección. Él es la señal de que Dios nos ama tanto que nos entregó a su único Hijo para traernos perdón, vida y amor. Es a Cristo Jesús a quien alzamos nuestra mirada buscando fuerza para llevar las cruces que vienen a nosotros en las dificultades de la vida. También le miramos buscando alegría y felicidad en nuestro peregrinar y buscando vida eterna más allá de la muerte. Con Jesús celebramos ahora, en la eucaristía, el memorial de su sacrificio en la cruz y de su resurrección.

La Cuaresma es el tiempo que precede y dispone a la celebración de la Pascua. Tiempo de escucha de la Palabra de Dios y de conversión, de preparación y de memoria del Bautismo, de reconciliación con Dios y con los hermanos, de recurso más frecuente a las "armas de la penitencia cristiana": la oración, el ayuno y la limosna (ver Mt 6,1-6.16-18). De manera semejante como el antiguo Pueblo de Israel marchó durante cuarenta años por el desierto para ingresar a la tierra prometida, la Iglesia, el nuevo pueblo de Dios, se prepara durante cuarenta días para celebrar la Pascua del Señor. Si bien es un tiempo penitencial, no es un tiempo triste y depresivo. Se trata de un tiempo especial de purificación y de renovación de la vida cristiana para poder participar con mayor plenitud y gozo del misterio pascual del Señor.




OFFERING UPDATE March 2/3			
Mass Time	Attendance	# of Envelopes	Weekly Collection
5:00 p.m.	208	90	\$2,592.00
8:00 a.m.	195	89	2,832.00
10:00 a.m.	410	95	3,988.00
12:00 p.m.	420	83	2,925.00
Total coin:			-
Faith Direct			3,420.75
Children's Env.		15	61.00
Mail-ins:			789.00
Special Needs	49	23	521.00
TOTAL	1,282	395	\$17,128.75
2023	1,201	358	\$17,232.45
Candles			\$1,021.00
Poor Box			\$352.84
1st Saturday			\$177.00



This week, **March 10**, our parish will take up **The Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

JOIN OUR TEAM



We are looking for a **Part-Time** employee to handle two different roles, one as a Sacristan and the other as a Religious Education Maintenance Monitor. The Sacristan work will take place on Saturdays from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., there will be some additional hours on special liturgical celebrations. The Religious Education work is twice a week, on Wednesday's from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and then on Saturday mornings from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. when Religious Education classes are in session. The hourly pay rate is \$16 an hour and will report to both the Religious Education Coordinator and the Pastor. Please send resume to our Business Manager via email, GChille@oloph.org.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 10.
DID YOU REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR?

DEADLINES FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests for items printed in the bulletin must first have approval from Msgr. DeGrocco or the ministry moderator. *All material must be submitted as a Word document* to Carmel Becker at cbecker@oloph.org. no later than the dates listed below.
Editing and sizes are at the discretion of the editor.

March 17—deadline passed March 24—deadline March 13* March 31— March 15*

**Early deadlines due to early printer deadlines.*

2024
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Revitalizing our Faith –
Renewed by the Eucharist*



2024 OLPH GOAL:
\$114,600

Total pledges: \$14,560.00
of pledges: 61
Total payments: \$7,358.00
As of 3/5/24

“...let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them.”

- Pope Francis

Almsgiving in Lent

During the Lenten Season we are asked to pray, fast and give alms.

Lent is a perfect time for us to pray for those in need - whether it is for their material, emotional or spiritual needs. And when you practice fasting and abstinence during these forty days, please remember those of our neighbors who reach out to us for help.

One way to do this is by making a gift to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**, which supports programs that help people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs.



For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please visit CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Please make check payable to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

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PREPARING FOR
Sunday, March 17, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.*

John 12:24

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah prophesied during a very difficult and turbulent period in the history of the Jewish people. The northern kingdom (Israel) had been conquered by the Assyrians years earlier and the southern kingdom (Judah) was besieged by the Babylonians with many of its citizens forced into exile. Against this backdrop, Jeremiah gives one of the most beautiful of biblical prophecies, which we hear today. His words of consolation soar with the poetry of healing, hope, and newness. It's a promise of coming days when the old covenant between God and the Jews will be transformed, based solely on God's choice to care for the ones he loves so dearly. The old covenant was written on stone tablets. This one will be written on their hearts: I will be your God and you will be my people.

Hebrews 5:7-9

Here is a short but beautiful selection from the letter to the Hebrews which should give us great encouragement. Jesus was truly God and truly man. As man, he did what all other human beings do (except sin): he wept, he prayed, he cried out to God, he suffered. Through suffering he learned obedience to his Father and became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him. It's good to know that we have permission to cry out to God in our pain and suffering, just as Jesus did. It's even better to know that by following Christ in this way and in all ways that we will have eternal life.

John 12:20-33

Next week is Palm Sunday when we begin to retell the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our savior, Jesus. This week, in this reading, we hear Jesus foretell it as he says that "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He must lay down his life to take it up again for the salvation of the entire world, like a grain of wheat falling to the ground to die and then be reborn. It's the purpose for which he came into the world, all for the glory of the name of the Father. We hear how a voice from heaven confirms this. The message is as clear as it is challenging and hopeful: whoever wants eternal life must do the same by losing their life in order to save it.

Gospel Reflection

After reading next Sunday's readings take some time to pray on them before you come to Mass. Use the questions below to aid your reflection.

1. When Jesus thought about what was coming he said, "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?" What are some of the things that trouble you? Who do you call on when you are troubled?

2. "... Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit." How is the way of self-denial opposite to the way of egoism? Which gives life to others?

Readings for the Week

Take time each day to read the daily readings of the Church.

Monday, March 11, 2024:

Isaiah 65:17-21 + John 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 12, 2024:

Ezekiel 47:1-9 + John 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 13, 2024:

Isaiah 49:8-15 + John 5:17-30

Thursday, March 14, 2024:

Ezekiel 32:7-14 + John 5:31-47

Friday, March 15, 2024:

Wisdom 2:12-22

+ John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 16, 2024:

Jeremiah 11:18-20 + John 7:40-53

Sunday, March 17, 2024:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

+ Hebrews 5:7-9 + John 15:20-33



DIOCESAN AND COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Agnes of Assisi – The Secular Franciscan Order: Would you like to give more time to God, but wonder how to do that when your life is so busy? Do you long for holiness, and feel a need for support in growing spiritually? Perhaps your heart has been moved by stories of St. Francis of Assisi, or the Peace Prayer attributed to him, and you are seeking that same holy simplicity, true peace and perfect joy? If so, Christ may be calling you to explore the Secular Franciscan life. We invite you to join our monthly meetings, 2nd Sunday of the month, at Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip at 2:00 pm. Please e-mail any questions or comments to Jackie Totino jtotino02@gmail.com.

Tune into **“Religion and Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun** on Sunday from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island’s East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m. on *Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel* and at 11:00 p.m. on XM Satellite, Channel 117. **Next Sunday’s theme is Traditions**, don’t miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding *Religion and Rock* go to www.ReligionandRock.com or at *“Religion & Rock” on ITUNES*. Don’t forget to tune into **CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK**, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit www.cfnv.org!

Handicapped Encounter Christ Ministry, Handicapped Encounter Christ is a ministry for adults with physical, mental, cognitive and/or sensory disabilities. It is based on the Cursillo movement of the Catholic Church. HEC brings together the communities of disabled and enabled adults so they can all get to know our Lord, Jesus Christ. During the year, we have many different events and annually there is a three-day HEC Retreat held each spring. We are always looking for participants to join this ministry — those that are disabled and those who are not — so that together we are one community learning from each other, enjoying each other’s company, and establishing many beautiful friendships together as we all get to know our Lord. The **2024 HEC Retreat** takes place Thursday evening **April 18th** and ends Sunday afternoon **April 21st**. **PLEASE join our HEC #40 planning meetings** for enabled adults who wish to volunteer and be of service on the Retreat weekend. **Wednesday March 6th** @ 7:00 p.m. at St Kilian Parish 485 Conklin St. Farmingdale (Green Room) Monday, **April 1st** @ 7:00 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi Church 29 Clay Pitts Rd, Greenlawn. All are welcome. Please join us! Any questions, call Bernice 516-582-0302 or Bob @ 516-241-4122.

Divorced or Separated Catholics of Long Island including widows, widowers and singles. A social organization for single persons. New Member Orientation Meeting Tuesday **March 19, 2024** at 7:00 p.m. St. Frances Club, 1869 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793. (Parking in the rear of building) Non-denominational. ALL ARE WELCOME. Bring proof of single status to join. Annual dues \$30. Refreshments following the meeting. For further information, please call also to verify there will be a meeting -Terry [516-650-5528](tel:516-650-5528) or Maryanne [516-205-2590](tel:516-205-2590)

“From the Heart Ball” on April 13th at Leonard’s Palazzo of Great Neck. Please click the link below for more information on the ball. (<https://goodcounselhomes.regfox.com/from-the-heart>) A portion of the event proceeds will be used to open a new Good Counsel home in the Queens/Long Island area. In operation for over 38 years, <https://www.goodcounselhomes.org/> is a private organization with a Catholic mission that has aided in the birth of over 1320 babies. Good Counsel helps any pregnant, homeless mother with a safe and secure learning environment in one of its four homes in Staten Island, the Bronx, New Jersey, and Spring Valley, NY. Good Counsel’s 24/7 helpline is; 1.800.723.8331. Good Counsel also has a Lumina helpline; 877.586.4621 which offers confidential, non-judgmental counseling to anyone suffering as a result of past abortion.

Volunteers Needed! Catholic Charities’ Amityville location is looking for volunteers to assist with clerical work, cultural orientation and ESL classes for Spanish, French Creole and Dari speaking clients. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, we need your help. Please call for more information. Tricia Callahan, Volunteer & Intern Coordinator 516-733-7044. *Your time and talent will be greatly appreciated!*

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